

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device, comprising:

a suction blower and leaf-stripping tools arranged in front of the suction blower, the leaf-stripping tools including a first rotatable cylinder and a second rotatable cylinder, wherein the first and second rotatable cylinders are arranged substantially parallel to each other, and wherein the first rotatable cylinder is coupled to a drive motor and includes peripheral grooves disposed circumferentially thereon;

wherein the blower is configured for producing an air stream through the grooves for drawing leaves between the first rotatable cylinder and the second rotatable cylinder;

wherein the leaves are selectively pressed between the first rotatable cylinder and the second rotatable cylinder in order to tear the leaves off plants.

- 2 – 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein the cylinders are designed so that foliage is separated from a plant, and fruits of the plant are not damaged.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein the width and depth of each groove corresponds roughly to the size of a fruit.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein the first cylinder is made from a plastic so has to have a hydrophobic surface.

23. (Previously Presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein the second cylinder is not coupled to the motor and is spring-loaded against the first cylinder.

24. (Previously Presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 23, wherein the second cylinder is supported in a lever mechanism, wherein pressure springs bear against the lever mechanism to bias the second cylinder toward the first cylinder.

25. (Previously Presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein the second cylinder includes an elastic peripheral surface.

26. (Previously Presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 25, wherein a peripheral surface of the second cylinder includes an elastomer.

27. (Previously Presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein the second cylinder has a wiper mechanism for scraping foliage extending over its length.

28. (Previously Presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second cylinders are aligned substantially vertically and are arranged in a common flow channel with the suction blower.

29. (Previously Presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 23, wherein a diameter of the second cylinder is smaller than the diameter of the first cylinder.

30. (Previously Presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 18, wherein the first and second cylinders are spanned partially by a cover plate arranged on a side facing the foliage that has a cutout with an entry incline for the foliage.

31. (Previously Presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 30, wherein the cover plate is fastened to a flow channel on a side facing the foliage.

32. (Previously Presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of pairs of first and second cylinders, arranged one behind the other.

33. (Previously presented) A leaf-stripping device according to Claim 1, further comprising means for mounting the device on the front of a vehicle.

34. (Previously presented) A leaf-stripping device according to claim 1, wherein the vehicle is a tractor.

35. (Currently Amended) A leaf-stripping device, comprising:

a suction blower and leaf-stripping tools arranged in front of the suction blower,

wherein the leaf-stripping tools include a first rotatable cylinder and a second rotatable cylinder, wherein the first and second rotatable cylinders are arranged substantially parallel to each other, and wherein the first rotatable cylinders is coupled to a drive motor; and

wherein the first and second cylinders are spanned partially by a cover plate arranged on a side facing the foliage that has a cutout, wherein the cutout [[with]] includes an [[entry]] incline along an edge of the cutout and the incline is configured for minimizing air flow towards the second rotatable cylinder ~~the foliage~~.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The leaf stripping device of claim [[36]] 35, wherein the first rotatable cylinder is made from a plastic so ~~as to have a hydrophobic surface configured for reducing leaf crush between the hydrophobic peripheral surface and the second rotatable cylinder~~.

38. (New) The leaf stripping device according to claim 35, wherein the second rotatable cylinder includes an elastic peripheral surface configured for reducing leaf crush between the elastic peripheral surface and the first rotatable cylinder.

39. (New) The leaf stripping device according to claim 35, wherein the incline is located at a rearward edge of the cutout with respect to the working direction of the leaf stripping device, and is angled towards the second cylinder.

40. (New) The leaf stripping device according to claim 1, wherein the grooves are configured for selectively trapping other objects from being suctioned into the air stream.